

**Claims**

1. A surface treating appliance comprising a main body having a longitudinal axis, a support assembly which is attached to the main body and arranged to roll with respect to the main body for allowing the appliance to be rolled along a surface, and a surface treating head, wherein the support assembly comprises one or more rotatable members having an outer surface which defines a substantially continuous rolling support surface in the direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the main body, the support surface being symmetrical about the longitudinal axis of the main body.
2. An appliance according to claim 1 wherein the support surface extends for a distance which is at least 50% of the width of the main body.
3. An appliance according to claim 1 wherein the support surface extends for a distance which is at least 75% of the width of the main body.
4. An appliance according claim 1 wherein the support surface extends for a distance which is substantially equal to the width of the main body.
5. An appliance according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the diameter of the support assembly is less at each end portion than at the central portion.
6. An appliance according to any preceding claim wherein the support assembly has at least one rotational axis which is transverse to the longitudinal axis of the main body.
7. An appliance according to any preceding claim wherein the distance between the geometric centre of the assembly and the outer surface is greater at each end portion than at the central portion.

8. An appliance according to any preceding claim wherein the central portion of the support assembly has a substantially constant diameter.
9. An appliance according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the support assembly is substantially spherical in shape.
10. An appliance according to any preceding claim wherein the support assembly comprises a plurality of rotatable members arranged so that members at the central portion of the support assembly extend lower than members at each end portion.
11. An appliance according to claim 10 wherein at least part of the support assembly has a curved rotational axis.
12. An appliance according to any preceding claim wherein the centre of mass of the support assembly is arranged to return the support assembly to a normal position when the support assembly is tilted away from that position.
13. An appliance according to any preceding claim wherein the rotatable member, or members, are hollow and are mounted around a chamber.
14. An appliance according to any preceding claim wherein the support assembly houses at least one component for the appliance.
15. An appliance according to claim 14 wherein the component is mounted within the support assembly such that the support surface rotates around the component.
16. An appliance according to claim 14 or 15 further comprising a shell, mounted within the support assembly, for supporting the means for acting on the fluid flow, and wherein the rolling support surface of the support assembly is rotatably mounted about the shell.

17. An appliance according to claim 14, 15 or 16 wherein the support assembly comprises a fluid inlet for receiving fluid flow, a fluid outlet for exhausting fluid and the component comprises means for acting on the fluid flow received through the inlet.
18. An appliance according to claims 17 wherein the means for acting on the fluid flow comprises suction-generating means.
19. An appliance according to any one of claims 14 to 18 wherein the component comprises, or further comprises, a motor for driving a further component of the appliance.
20. An appliance according to claim 19 wherein the further component comprises surface treating means.
21. An appliance according to any preceding claim, further comprising a linkage between the main body and the surface treating head, wherein the linkage is arranged such that rotating the main body about its longitudinal axis causes the surface treating head to turn in a new direction.
22. An appliance according to claim 21 wherein the linkage is arranged to allow the surface treating head to remain substantially in contact with the surface as the main body is rotated about its longitudinal axis.
23. A surface treating appliance, substantially as hereinbefore described, with reference to, or as illustrated in, the accompanying drawings.
24. A surface treating appliance as claimed in any preceding claim in the form of a vacuum cleaner.